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ABSTRACT

Noting that intermediate and junior high school students can be motivated to read if high quality, interesting literature is made available, this bibliography will provide teachers, librarians, and resource teachers with a list of books published since 1980 that can be used to assist students in selecting reading materials. The annotations include publishing information and indicate appropriate school level and, in some instances, a readability grade level. (HTH)

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BOOKS TOO GOOD TO MISS . . .

A Bibliography for Intermediate and Upper Grades Students

San Diego County Office of Education
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FOREWORD

Intermediate and junior high school students can be motivated to read if high quality, interesting literature is made available. The purpose of this bibliography is to provide teachers, librarians, and resource teachers with a list of books published since 1980 that can be used to assist students in selecting reading materials. Besides the books in this bibliography, educators may also wish to encourage students to read books that have been awarded the Newbery Medal. This award is presented yearly to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published during the preceding year as determined by the American Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children Division. A list of Newbery Medal books is available from School Library Service, Media Services Division.

The books in this bibliography are available to teachers, librarians, and resource teachers in school districts which contract for School Library Service.

Gerald A. Rosander
Superintendent of Schools

BOOKS TOO GOOD TO MISS

Books for Intermediate and Upper Grade Students

Adler, C. S. Get Lost Little Brother. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983 (I-JH)

When Todd and his brash friend Louie decide to build a fort on the sandbar in the river behind Todd's house, his older brothers scoff at the idea. Fry Readability--Grade 4.

Banks, Lynne Reid. The Indian in the Cupboard. New York: Avon Books, 1980 (I)

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Benjamin, Carol Lea. The Wicked Stepdog. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1982 (I)

When her father does the impossible and remarries, ten-year-old Louise has to come to grips with an unwanted stepmother and her golden retriever, and finally learns what it means to share and love.

Blume, Judy. Superfudge. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1980 (I)

Peter describes the highs and lows of life with his younger brother, Fudge.

Blume, Judy. Tiger Eyes. Scarsdale: Bradbury Press, 1981 (JH)

Resettled in the "Bomb City" with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City.

Bogard, Larry. Los Alamos Light. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1983 (JH)

Sixteen-year-old Maggie Chilton must first adapt to her mother's suicide and then to the sudden move from Boston to New Mexico with her scientist father.

Buchwald. Emilie. Floramel and Esteban. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982 (I)

A lonely cow and a lazy cattle egret form a convenient partnership which soon evolves into something quite special. Fry Readability--Grade 4.

Byars, Betsy. The Animal, the Vegetable, and John D. Jones. New York: Delacorte Press, 1982 (I-JH)

Two sisters look upon a beach vacation with their father, his woman friend, and her son, as two weeks in the wrong place with the wrong people.

Cleary, Beverly. Dear Mr. Henshaw. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1983 (I)

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Dahl, Roald. The Witches. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1983 (I-JH)

The seven-year-old hero of this story has been orphaned in an automobile accident and lives with his aged, cigar-smoking grandmother, a retired witchophile.

Danziger, Paula. The Divorce Express. New York: Delacorte Press, 1982 (JH)

Resentful of her parents' divorce, a young girl tries to accommodate herself to their new lives and also find a place for herself.

DeClements, Barthe. Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade. New York: Viking Press, 1981 (I)

The new girl in school is so fat that "her chins rippled down her neck," is annoyingly infallible in math class and steals classmates' lunch money to spend on candy. She couldn't really be a human with feelings - or could she? It's hard to tell, since nothing's fair in fifth grade, anyway.

Duncan, Lois. Stranger With My Face. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1981 (JH)

A seventeen-year-old senses she is being spied on and probably impersonated, but when she discovers what actually is occurring, it is more unbelievable than she ever imagined.

Dunn, Marylois. The Absolutely Perfect Horse. New York: Harper and Row, 1983 (JH)

The formerly noble, now downtrodden horse known as Dogmeat helps Annie and her family reassess their values.

Farley, Walter. The Black Stallion Legend. New York: Random House, 1983 (I-JH)

The Black Stallion helps save an Indian tribe during a time of disaster, thereby fulfilling an ancient prophecy.

Fleischman, Paul. Graven Images. New York: Harper and Row, 1982 (I)

Three stories about people whose lives are affected by sculptured objects.

Foley, June. It's No Crush, I'm in Love! New York: Delacorte Press, 1982 (JH)

Annie Cassidy, patterning her life after Pride and Prejudice, her favorite book, tries to imagine how Elizabeth Bennet would act when Annie falls in love with her English teacher.

Gilson, Jamie. Do Bananas Chew Gum? New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1980 (I)

Able to read and write at only a second grade level, sixth-grader Sam Mott considers himself dumb until he is prompted to cooperate with those who think something can be done about his problem.

Green, Phyllis. Eating Ice Cream with a Werewolf. New York: Harper and Row, 1983 (I)

A wacky baby sitter and her book of spells keep a twelve-year-old and his little sister guessing while their parents are away.

Hahn, Mary Downing. Daphne's Book. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983 (I-JH)

As author Jessica and artist Daphne collaborate on a picture book for a seventh-grade English class contest, Jessica becomes aware of conditions in Daphne's home life that seem to threaten her health and safety.

Hamilton, Virginia. Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1983 (JH)

"Awful funny" is how twelve-year-old Willie Bea sums up the Halloween happenings in this warm story of family love and the strength such love gives a young girl for her own adventurous journey.

Hautzig, Deborah. Second Star to the Right. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1981 (JH)

As fourteen-year-old Leslie begins to shed the weight she feels makes her imperfect, she finds it increasingly difficult to reach out for the psychological help she knows she needs.

Howe, James. The Celery Stalks at Midnight. New York: Atheneum, 1983 (I)

Chester the cat is more than ever convinced that Bunnicula is a vampire when there is a harvest of white vegetables on the morning after the night that Bunnicula was probably wandering through the neighborhood.

Hurmence, Belinda. A Girl Called Boy. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1982 (I-JH)

A pampered young black girl who has been mysteriously transported back to the days of slavery, struggles to escape her bondage. Fry Readability--Grade 4.

Hurwitz, Johanna. Aldo Ice Cream. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1981 (I)

Nine-year-old Aldo discovers the pleasures of doing volunteer work to help the older citizens of the community and the satisfactions of earning his first money on his own for unselfish reasons. Fry Readability--Grade 5.

Kerr, M. E. What I Really Think of You. New York: Harper and Row, 1982 (JH)

The daughter of charismatic Christians and the son of a television evangelist come to terms with their families and faiths.
Fry Readability--Grade 6.

Konigsburg, E. L. Journey to an 800 Number. New York: Atheneum, 1982 (JH)

Bo learns about kindness, love, loyalty, appearances and pretense from the unusual characters he meets when he is sent to stay briefly with his father after his mother's second marriage.

L'Engle, Madeleine. A Ring of Endless Light. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1980 (JH)

During the summer her grandfather is dying, fifteen-year-old Vicky finds comfort with a pod of dolphins.

Levitin, Sonia. The Mark of Conte. New York: Atheneum, 1980 (I-JH)

A computer error enables a high school student to assume a double identity, both selves of which become involved in the pranks of some slightly eccentric friends.

Lowry, Lois. Taking Care of Terrific. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983 (I-JH)

While walking her young charge in the park, fourteen-year-old Enid meets a black saxophonist and a bag lady and is charged with kidnapping. Fry Readability--Grade 5.

MacDonald, Reby Edmond. The Ghosts of Austwick Manor. New York: Atheneum, 1982 (I-JH)

Hillary and Heather find themselves entering the sixteenth century as a direct result of their older brother Don's inheritance. Will they be able to save Don who is in grave danger from an ancient curse? Fry Readability--Grade 6.

McKinley, Robin. The Blue Sword. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1982 (I-JH)

Harry, bored with her sheltered life in the remote orange-growing colony of Daria, discovers magic in herself when she is kidnapped by a native king with mysterious powers.

Mahy, Margaret. The Haunting. New York: Atheneum, 1983 (I-JH)

After a shy and rather withdrawn eight-year-old begins receiving frightening supernatural images and messages, he learns about a family legacy which could be considered a curse or a rare gift.

Mazer, Harry. The Island Keeper. New York: Delacorte Press, 1981 (JH)

Longing to disappear after the death of her beloved younger sister, sixteen-year-old Cleo runs away from her overprotective and oppressive family and goes to a remote island where she is the only human inhabitant. Fry Readability--Grade 4.

Mazer, Norma Fox. Taking Terri Mueller. New York: Avon Books, 1981 (JH)

During her thirteenth year, Terri contacts the mother she thought was dead.

Moeri, Louise. Save Queen of Sheba. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1981 (I)

Twelve-year-old King David, recovering consciousness in a field of dead bodies, finds only one other survivor of the Sioux raid--his spoiled six-year-old sister, Queen of Sheba.

Morey, Walt. The Lemon Meringue Dog. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1980 (I)

When Chris and his search dog, Mike, are demoted from the Coast Guard's drug bust program, Chris takes a second job where Mike's training to sniff out drugs brings them an even bigger problem.

Myers, Walter Dean. Won't Know Till I Get There. New York: Viking Press, 1982 (JH)

Fourteen-year-old Stephen, his new foster brother, and his friends are sentenced to help out at an old age home for the summer after Stephen is caught writing graffiti on a train.

Norton, Mary. The Borrowers Avenged. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982 (I-JH)

Escaping from an attic where they had been held captive over the long, dark winter, a family of tiny people sets up house in an old rectory.

Oppenheimer, Joan L. Gardine vs. Hanover. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1982 (JH)
The antagonism between fifteen-year-old Jill and her new sixteen-year-old stepsister threatens to destroy the entire family.

Paterson, Katherine. Jacob Have I Loved. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1980 (JH)
Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.

Peck, Robert Newton. Banjo. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982 (I-JH)
While doing research for a school essay about a reclusive old mountain man, two boys fall into an abandoned mine shaft from which only the old man can rescue them. Fry Readability--Grade 6.

Pinkwater, Jill. Cloud Horse. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1983 (JH)
Kate inherits a legacy of understanding and love for the free-spirited cloud horses of Iceland from a beautiful Viking girl who for a time had made her home on the shores of Vinland many centuries before. Fry Readability--Grade 5.

Platt, Kin. Crocker. New York: J. B. Lippincott, 1983 (JH)
Between breakfast and her first class one February morning, studious, sensible Dorothy finds herself head over heels in love with alarming, unpredictable Crocker. Fry Readability--Grade 7.

Rodgers, Raboo. Magnum Fault. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1984 (JH)

Jill and Cody solve a mystery that begins with the disappearance of Jill's father, a geologist for a gas company, after he has made a frightening discovery, and the sudden drying-up of Cody's favorite canoeing river. Fry Readability--Grade 5.

Sebestyen, Ouida. IOU'S. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1982 (JH)

Thirteen-year-old Stowe Garrett is caught between the loyalty and love he feels for his mother and a yearning to break free and experiment with life. Fry Readability--Grade 7.

Smith, Doris Buchanan. The First Hard Times. New York: Viking Press, 1983 (I-JH)

Devoted to the memory of her father, who has been missing in action in Vietnam for more than ten years, Ancil has difficulty in accepting her new stepfather.

Stolz, Mary. Cat Walk. New York: Harper and Row, 1983 (JH)

Yearning to be more than just a barnyard rat catcher, a young cat in search of a name embarks on a journey that finally leads him to a special place he can call a home. Fry Readability--Grade 5.

Taylor, Theodore. The Trouble With Tuck. Garden City: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1981 (I)

A young girl trains her blind dog to follow and trust a guide dog.

Tchudi, Stephen. The Burg-O-Rama Man. New York: Delacorte Press, 1983 (JH)

During the spring of Karen's senior year the representative of a chain of fast food restaurants and his camera crew choose five Crawford High School students to feature in slice-of-life advertisements.

Uchida, Yoshiko. Journey Home. New York: Atheneum, 1980 (JH)

Twelve-year-old Yuki and her parents have just been released from Topaz, one of many concentration camps in which all west coast Japanese were imprisoned during World War II. This is the story of their hardships in starting a new life. Sequel to Journey to Topaz.

Voight, Cynthia. A Solitary Blue. New York: Atheneum, 1984 (JH)

Jeff's mother, who deserted the family years before, reenters his life and widens the gap between Jeff and his father, a gap that only truth, love, and friendship can heal.

Yep, Laurence. The Serpent's Children. New York: Harper and Row, 1984 (JH)

In nineteenth-century China, a young girl struggles to protect her family from the threat of bandits, famine, and an ideological conflict between her father and brother. Fry Readability--Grade 7.